

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR.
RYAN DEGRAFFENRIED, JR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Tuscaloosa and indeed the entire State of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Former State Senator Ryan deGraffenried, Jr., was a devoted family man and dedicated community leader throughout his entire life.

A graduate of the University of Alabama and the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University, Ryan represented the Tuscaloosa area in the Alabama Senate for 16 years, 7 of which he served in the Senate's highest position, president pro tempore.

The last year and a half of his term, he became the Senate's presiding officer when Lt. Governor Jim Folsom, Jr., ascended to the governor's office.

Ryan's legacy in Alabama will certainly be his hard work and dedication, as well as the fact that his word was his bond.

Make no mistake, the University of Alabama couldn't have had a better friend in the legislature than Ryan deGraffenried and the entire State watched with awe as he played a lead role in establishing the first auto assembly plant in Alabama, the Mercedes-Benz plant in nearby Vance.

Ryan's political savvy, combined with his many friendships in the legislature, enabled him to ensure the economic incentives necessary to make the Mercedes deal a reality passed the legislature, and in so doing, he deserves the lion's share of credit for helping to create what is today Alabama's booming auto industry.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout Alabama. Ryan deGraffenried, Jr., will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Sandra Sims-deGraffenried and his children, William Ryan deGraffenried III and Frances Margaret deGraffenried—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL REYNOLDS
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michael Reynolds, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Michael has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Michael has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Michael's dedication to his school work and church are outstanding. Michael works hard in school, while he remains involved with his church where he is the second assistant to the President of the Priest's quorum. Michael has also contributed significantly to the community, through his planning and organization of a food drive that collected more than 600 non-perishable food items for donation to the local food pantry.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Michael Reynolds for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO VOLUNTEER
FIREFIGHTER SHANE DAUGHETEE

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Volunteer Firefighter, Shane Daughette. We thank him for his work and that of the 750,000 Volunteer firefighters nationwide.

Recently, this valiant, young man died while rescuing a family from a fire in Hamilton County, TN. The 24-year-old volunteer fell through the roof of the burning home, but the family members' lives were spared because of his bravery.

Mr. Daughette was part of the Highway 58 Fire department. He was a 7-year veteran of the department and had been named firefighter of the year. He was laid to rest at New McDonald East View Cemetery.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Nicole, who he had met while working at Winn-Dixie together years ago, lost touch with, and subsequently started dating in 2002. Since then, fellow volunteers said Shane and Nicole were joined at the hip.

Nicole wore her husband's firefighter jacket to his funeral. She said her husband loved being a firefighter so much that when they bought a house last summer, he insisted that it be in his station's district so he could continue to volunteer there. Mr. Daughette is also survived by his parents, James and Linda. We mourn with the entire Daughette family at this difficult time. Shane Daughette will be greatly missed and was an extraordinary citizen of East Tennessee.

We are so grateful for the dedication and compassion of all Volunteer Firefighters and other rescue personnel as they put themselves at risk to save perfect strangers in our communities. These men and women put their lives on the line to help others every day and we often do not take the time to think of emergency personnel and the dangers they are willing to face. Their courage is unquestioned, their cause is noble, and we thank them for ensuring our safety.

JOE T. GETHERALL MEDAL OF
HONOR LEGISLATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce a bill to authorize and request the President of the United States to award the Medal of Honor to Joseph T. Getherall, of Hacienda Heights, California, for acts of valor while serving his country in the Republic of Vietnam on December 22, 1966.

Joe Getherall was a sergeant in the United States Marine Corps who served two tours of duty in Vietnam and was seriously wounded three times during his second tour. He served as a squad leader with Company M, Third Battalion, Twenty-Sixth Marines, Third Marine Division during "Operation Chinook." In the early morning hours of December 22, 1966, Company M was occupying a night defensive position in the area of the Co Bi-Thien Tan Corridor, Thua Thien Province. Suddenly, the Marines came under intense small arms and mortar fire from the 802nd Viet Cong Battalion. Sergeant Getherall unhesitatingly exposed himself to intense small arms, automatic weapons, and mortar fire in order to repeatedly move across open terrain to effectively control his unit. While moving from one position to another he was seriously wounded in both legs and arms by an exploding mortar round. However, despite his painful injuries, he steadfastly refused medical evacuation and continued to direct his unit.

As the battle raged throughout the night, with most of the enemy ground assaults concentrated in front of his squad's position through 50 meters of open terrain, he continually exposed himself to enemy small arms fire. With enemy mortars and grenades exploding around him he disregarded his own safety in order to pinpoint enemy targets, direct fire, resupply his men with ammunition and ensure the integrity of the perimeter defense. He personally killed many of the enemy attackers with his own rifle fire. During one of the enemy assaults, a Marine went down in the open. Sergeant Getherall realized the gravity of the situation and fearlessly moved across the hazardous open terrain under intense enemy fire and dragged the Marine to cover.

During another assault, Sergeant Getherall observed a Viet Cong about to throw a grenade and Sergeant Getherall killed him with rifle fire. The enemy was still able to throw his grenade, which landed among the Marines. Sergeant Getherall shouted a warning to his men and with complete disregard for his own life, under heavy enemy fire he was able to get to the grenade and jump on it. He then picked it up and threw it back at the enemy where it exploded a few meters away, wounding Sergeant Getherall for a second time in one of his legs. By his prompt and courageous action in the face of almost certain death, he saved several of his squad members from death or serious injury.

During the remainder of the night, he moved among his men, encouraging them and ensuring that there was maximum security and firepower to repulse subsequent attacks. Inspired by his selfless courage and aggressive fighting spirit, his squad members repulsed a number